ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

At a meeting held on the 26th ultimo, Mr. Tite, V. P., in the chair; Mr. G. Porter, and Mr. G. B. Webb, were elected fellows.

The following announcement was made by the council:—

"Her Majesty having been pleased to grant her gracious permission for the Royal Medal to be conferred on such distinguished architect, or man of science, of any country, as may have designed or executed any buildings of high merit, or produced a work tending to promote or facilitate the knowledge of architecture or the various branches of science connected therewith, the council will in January, 1848, proceed to take into consideration the appropriation of the Royal Medal accordingly."

The honorary secretary read a description of the Tuscan Column at Baalbek, by Sir Gardner Wilkinson.

Afterwards two papers by Mr. Cornelius Varley were read. The first on a method of ventilating rooms for large assemblies; and the second on the means of preventing the emission of noxious effluvia from the sewers into the streets.

The mode of ventilation proposed was, to supply cold fresh air from openings in the cornice under the ceiling, and draw it away *through* the floor. In the course of a discussion which followed, it was stated that the theatre at Hamburgh was warmed and ventilated by a downward current, also the Newmarket prison. One speaker thought that the mode adopted at the new House of Lords was similar; but it was pointed out that there the air was both brought in and taken out by the ceiling. The chairman said the theory of ventilation was well enough understood; the difficulty was the *modus operandi*. If the air always moved in the currents that you wished, the result might be predicated, but without artificial means to produce the current, this could not be depended on. Day's "wind-guard" had answered very well for this purpose in some cases where he had employed it.

The Dean of Westminster said he had, by means of a modification of this cowl, cured a smoky chimney under the walls of Westminster Abbey, which had baffled the experiments of 300 years.

Mr. Varley's second paper proposed to trap all openings into sewers, and to provide for the escape of the noxious gases by flues against the houses, placed against smoke flues where practicable, to ensure a draught.

The chairman, after pointing out the difficulties of the plan, said he thought if gratings were placed in the *middle* of the street instead of at the sides, the annoyance would be obviated. He was disposed to think the evil was overstated, for he recently had been compelled to traverse a sewer, and found little or no inconvenience.

Mr. D'Anson agreed in this opinion; as did some other members present. Mr. Godwin said he considered this opinion a dangerous one: the gases generated in the sewers were deadly, and he should lament if any thing said there should interfere with the efforts that were being made to discover a means for preventing their escape.*

The dean followed with some excellent remarks in support of this view of the case.

The chairman said he should be sorry to be misunderstood on the subject, or to say anything from which it might be inferred that they were not willing to aid the Government to the extent of their power in providing for the public health. He thought the great point was to *get* sewers in neighbourhoods where there were none, and that the gases that escaped from them were of much less consequence than was supposed.

A Cement-Rock-Quarry has just been discovered near Ashburton, on the South Devon line of railway, which also passes through what has been regarded as one of the finest marble-rock quarries in the country.

* The following letter to us bears upon the subject, and may be introduced here:—

Dear Sir,—With reference to the ingenious ideas expressed in your last number by your correspondent, "Ventilator," dealt with the aid of chemical and other sciences, the local air of sewers might be rendered innocuous in its passage out from them before it mixes with our atmosphere,—I beg to suggest, as a cheap mode of attaining about as desirable an effect, the causing, by some mechanical contrivance, the gaseous emanations from sewers to pass through some alkaline fluid, such as a weak solution of soda or potash, or else through a stratum of quick-lime or coarsely powdered charcoal. But as to the change of form necessary for this purpose of the present gratings and gallery-holes of sewers, I must leave to the ingenuity of those of your readers who are better versed in mechanics than your humble servant. W. Brown.

THE WATER-COLOUR EXHIBITIONS.

The old Society of Painters in Water Colours opened their room to friends and patrons on Saturday last, and to the public on Monday; the *New* Society, as already mentioned, had done so in the preceding week. As usual, the old society is strongest in landscape, the new in figure pieces. Both are very good, though both are deficient in what we may term extraordinary pictures.

Confining ourselves to the old society first, No. 22, "View of Snowdon from the Mountain Road between Pont Aberglaslyn and Tan-y-bwlch," is a nice work of the president, Mr. Copley Fielding, as is No. 141, "View from the Sands of Traeth Mawr, of Snowdon and surrounding Mountains,"—which is firmer than usual, and none the worse for it.

Mr. Evans (of Eton) has some nice drawings, especially No. 27, "A Day in the Forest of Atholl."

No. 41, "View in Epping Forest, near High Beech, Essex," by P. De Wint, is a fine piece of nature, and the same may be said of No. 125, "View on the Witham, near Lincoln."

Prout still maintains his place. "The Lady Chapel of St. Pierre, Caen" (58), where Gothic-run-mad displays itself, as we well remember, in long pendents from the intersections of the groining, and a larger drawing, "Augsburgh, Bavaria" (89), both display well his peculiar power.

No. 97, "The Neckar, from the Konigstuhl, Heidelberg," by T. M. Richardson, jun., is a charming drawing, although it seems to us to misrepresent the old ruin on the hill.

No. 107, "The Visionary" (a maiden at a cottage door, discontented with the present, and feeding on memory), and No. 172, "The Hallowed Relic," both by Alfred Fripp, are two of the finest pictures in the exhibition.

Hunt has several small pictures; the best to our fancy is No. 160, "A Tramper."

Frederick Taylor's "Stag at Bay,"—the scene, a rocky glen in Braemar, Aberdeenshire (251), is an excellent drawing, full of vigour.

No. 56, "Drumadoun," by W. A. Nesfield; No. 100, "Prosperity," by O. Oakley; No. 142, "The Black Knight and Jester riding through the Forest," from Scott's immortal "Ivanhoe;" No. 156, "Windermere, from the woods of Ellery," by Mr. Gastineau; No. 182, "The Pfalz, on the Rhine," by W. Callow; No. 272, "Tattershall Castle, Lincolnshire," and many others, deserve special mention.

Stepping back to the younger society, we find close to the door a charming work by F. W. Topham, "Cavan's Well" (No. 10), which we like even better than his large picture, No. 72, "St. Patrick's Day," admirable as that is.

No. 44, "Prince Charles Edward in the Island of Skye," by John Absolon, is a great advance on any thing that Mr. Absolon has yet done. The head of the sleeping prince is a triumph.

No. 55, "La Prigioniera," by H. Warren, represents a captive with a ray of light,—"the same light, that on her native hills fell cheeringly,"—full on her cheek, a curious effect, well represented. The same artist has a larger picture, No. 218, "John the Baptist Preaching,"—a fine work, calculated to sustain his reputation. It is widely different from the conventional representations of the same subject, and is much nearer to truth.

No. 64, "At Maidstone," by James Fahey, is a particularly successful landscape. E. Corbould's principal picture, which is but a small one, is from that pathetic ballad hight, "The Children in the Wood."

Miss Egerton has improved greatly; her picture, No. 222, from the story of Lord Thomas and the fair Annet, is a piece of very elaborate execution, wherein the mind, nevertheless, is as obvious as the hand.

An accustomed visitor to this gallery searches, as a matter of course, for L. Haghe's work, and equally, of course, expects a fine thing. On the present occasion he will not be disappointed. No. 196, "Meeting-room o' the Brower's Corporation at Antwerp," is amongst the best of this artist's works;—the power of water colours has never been carried farther. It wants a better title to give interest to the groups.

E. H. Wehnert never treads a beaten track, and deserves high praise for his heterodoxy, even if not always successful. No. 175, "The Death of Jean Goujon" (shot while finishing some bas-reliefs at the Louvre), is the work of a man of genius, and claims applause in spite of some weaknesses.

C. Vacher has a number of very clever drawings from Venice and Rome. E. Duncan, J. J. Jenkins, William Lee, Geo. Howse, H. Maplestone, C. H. Weigall, Alfred Taylor, and Mrs. Margetts, have all some capital pictures.

ARMY AND NAVY CLUB COMPETITION.

On Thursday last, strangers, including the competitors and their friends, were permitted, for the first time, to view the designs which were submitted in competition,—too late for us on the present occasion to do more than glance round the *eight rooms* in which the drawings are hung, announce the successful competitors, and give the names of such of the other candidates as have authorised the committee to open the letters which accompanied the drawings.

The designs were suspended in the different rooms in the rotation in which they were received by the secretary, Mr. Walcot, in order that no preference of light, or situation, should be accorded to any particular design. They can all be viewed with ease and to full advantage; on no occasion, that we remember, has such ample justice been done in this respect; and we take the opportunity to bear witness to the anxiety displayed by Mr. Walcot, to obtain for every candidate fair consideration, and to keep himself free from the possibility of reproach.

The two designs which received the greatest number of votes were those previously selected by the committee, and recommended for adoption. No. 1, is by G. Tattersall, of St. James's-street; No. 2, by Messrs. F. Fowler and Fisk, of Sackville-street;—the first probably selected for its elevation, the second for the plan.

We do not propose now to express any opinion on the selection, or to make any remark but this,—that the cubical contents of the first design are very small, as compared with the others exhibited, and we should think can scarcely afford the accommodation required for the club.

The following are amongst the competitors:—1, H. B. Garling; 3, H. Dudley; 4, Pope, Bindon, and Clark (Bristol); 5, G. A. Burn; 11, George Truefitt; 12, G. Sevestre; 14, H. Currey; 15, F. W. Fiddian; 16, E. Adams; 17, F. M. White; 18, M. Stutely; 22, G. Williamy and G. B. Kennedy; 23, A. Salvin; 24, A. Anderson; 27, J. R. Cantwell and T. Dyke; 31, R. Wetten; 33, Parsons, Dain, and Willson (Leicester); 34, J. Turring; 35, Allom and Crosse; 36, C. C. Nelson; 37, H. B. Richardson; 38, E. B. Lamb; 40, John Johnson; 41, Wyatt and Brandon; 42, Jas. Wilson; 43, John Turner; 44, Owen Jones; 45, E. D'Anson; 47, E. J. Payne; 49, W. L. B. Granville; 50, S. C. Fripp (Bristol); 51, J. E. Ebbs; 52, H. Dowbury; 53, E. Stevens (Tonbridge Wells); 54, W. Wright; 56, Dickson and Brakespear (Manchester); 57, G. Alexander; 60, C. Fowler, jun; 63, G. S. Clarke; 64, G. G. Scott; 66, C. D. Cuthbert; 69, J. W. Papworth.

Without immediate reference to the result, we greatly regret that the Committee did not obtain professional assistance in making the selection.

South Staffordshire Hospital.—Sir: As you have had something to say about the new hospital here, I think it is but right to remark that all you have printed and much more is quite true. All the cornice on one side of the building, about 70 feet long, fell down as the men were hoisting the last stone, and the frieze is not more than three or four inches thick; the pilasters are put up in the way that we put up chimney-pieces, and are not much thicker. All the joints are jointed together at the top, and all the mullions of the windows are in *two pieces*; the ashlar in the basement is not more than three or four inches thick, and some less, and many more things of the same sort, which few will say make good work.—I am, Sir, &c.

A Working Mason.

Wolverhampton, April 27.

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